

WSDOT's Environmental Services Office and Highways & Local Programs LTAP Center present:

WSDOT Biological Assessment Author Re-Qualification Seminar

March 11-12, 2013 (#CN2195CN)
Exam: March 12, 2013

WSDOT Materials Lab
Crimson Conference Room (Upstairs)
1655 South 2nd Avenue SW
Tumwater, WA 98512
360-709-5501

(The phone number above may be used in case of emergency to contact a student in the class.)

Time: March 11, 2013 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.
March 12, 2013 8:00 to 1:00 p.m. (Exam)

Class Size: 35
Cost: \$75.00

Instructors

Mark Bakeman, WSDOT Biologist
Cindy L. Callahan, Environmental Specialist/Biologist, FHWA Washington Division
Marion Carey, WSDOT Fish & Wildlife Program Manager
Jeff Dreier, WSDOT Biologist
Mike Grady, NOAA Fisheries, Transportation Branch Manager
Julie Hampden, Herrera Environmental Consultants
Rick Huey, WSF Biologist
Jim Laughlin, WSDOT Air/Acoustics/Energy Technical Manager
Emily Teachout, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Transportation Planning Branch Team Lead

Seminar Description

This one and a half day **Re-qualification Seminar** will focus on the more challenging consultation topics. This information will complement the information presented in the *Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects Seminar*. The seminar will present new and up-to-date guidance for preparing Biological Assessments (BAs) for WSDOT projects. Topics covered include:

- Consultation hot topics: learn what the latest issues are in the consultation world
- Noise assessment review and update
- New marbled murrelet noise thresholds, and habitat and nesting season definitions
- New stormwater analysis method for indirect effect analyses
- Re-qualification test on March 12, 2013

The Re-qualification Seminar will be taught in conjunction with the last half of the *Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects* seminar. Individuals wishing to review all of the information in the BA manual may sign up for the entire seminar. If you do so, please let us know so that we have the appropriate number of exams.

Target Audience

Consultants: The re-qualification seminar is required to maintain a qualified Senior or Junior WSDOT BA Author status. Attending this seminar and achieving a passing score on the exam are required every two years.



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Please Note: The re-qualification seminar is for consultants who are already qualified as WSDOT BA authors. The re-qualification seminar will not count toward initial qualification.

Local Agencies: This seminar is recommended, but not required, for consultants or individuals who write BAs for local agencies.

Please note that this seminar is intended only for individuals who actually write BA documents.

Information for WSDOT Consultants

On June 1, 2006, WSDOT implemented requirements for on-call environmental consultants who prepare BAs. If you have met the initial qualification requirements and are currently a Junior or Senior Biological Assessment Author, every two years you will need to take the re-qualification seminar and pass the exam with a score of at least 80 percent to remain qualified.

If you are currently qualified as a Junior BA Author and would like to change your status to Senior BA Author, you may do so by clearly providing proof of **two full years** of BA author experience and a detailed resume. For information on how to submit documentation of experience or general qualification requirements, see <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/qualification.htm>.

Information for Local Agencies

This re-qualification requirement is recommended, but not required, for local agencies that either prepare BAs or hire consultants to prepare BAs for FHWA-funded projects. The intent of the **Re-qualification Seminar** is to complement the information given in the original *Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects Seminar* by presenting new information on the latest WSDOT and FHWA policies and procedures associated with the consultation process. Participants should achieve greater consistency and quality in BA format, content, and analysis of project effects to listed species and designated critical habitat. Improved consistency and quality will reduce the number of quality-control reviews and may decrease turnaround times at the Services. Decreasing review timelines can yield significant cost savings and help keep projects on schedule.

Study Guide

The **Biological Assessment Seminar Study Guide** provides important details about the exam. It is recommended that you review the materials prior to the course in order to be successful on the exam. The study guide is available at: [Biological Assessment Seminar Study Guide](#)

Exam

The exam will be offered on the last day of the class. The re-qualification exam is not the same exam offered for the Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects course. It will be open-book and based upon a realistic project in order to better assess participants' practical understanding of how to correctly prepare WSDOT BAs. Participants will be asked to download and bring specific information to class with them as part of the exam. Information on what to bring to the exam will be provided on the ftp site and the address will be sent to you by email several days prior to the class. Please be sure to provide your correct email address when you register. Individuals and consultants working for local agencies are not required to take the exam, but are encouraged to do so. On-call consultants writing BAs for WSDOT are required to take and pass this exam to remain a Senior or Junior BA Author.

The exam is not limited to information presented in the Re-qualification Seminar and may include anything in the current *Advanced Training Manual: Biological Assessment Preparation for*



Transportation Projects (BA Manual), and on the WSDOT Fish and Wildlife Program Website that relates to writing BAs. **It is recommended that you review the BA Manual prior to the course to be successful on the exam.** You will have 5 hours to complete the exam.

BA Manual

We recommend that you print out a copy of the BA manual and bring it with you to the seminar as we are no longer able to provide course participants with a hard copy. Wait until the manual has been updated February 2013 before printing, to insure that you have the correct version for the seminar. It is available on line at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/default.htm>.

Registration

Please register on-line using this link: **LTAP Training On-line Registration Form** .

Fill in the requested information, select your class from the list, then press "Submit." You will receive an e-mail notification with driving directions to the training site when we process your request. If you do not receive this e-mail notification within a day or two, you may not be registered and should contact us by phone.

Confirmation letters with an invoice will be mailed prior to the class. If you are unable to attend, someone else from your agency may attend in your place.

For Out-of-State Attendees: Registration is open now for the **wait list**. Use the on-line registration link below to register. Individuals from the three groups here will be placed on a wait list through Friday, **February 1, 2013**.

- Consultants in other states
- Agencies in other states
- Federal agencies in other states

After February 1, 2013, if seats are still available, names will be taken from this wait list and enrolled, in the order in which they were received. An e-mail notification will be sent when a name is moved from the wait list to the enrollee list.

Questions?

Seminar information for local agencies contact:

Bill Leonard at LeonardB@wsdot.wa.gov , or 360-705-7344.

Seminar information for WSDOT consultants' contact:

Jeff Dreier, DreierJ@wsdot.wa.gov or 360-705-7254

For information on the WSDOT Consultant BA Qualification Program:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/qualification.htm>

All other questions on this training, for registration assistance or cancellations contact:

Judy McDonald: McdonJT@wsdot.wa.gov, or (360) 705-7355.

Disability accommodations provided upon request.

Visit the

Washington State LTAP Center's Web Page:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/localprograms/ltap/>



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**